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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 20, 1982 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 15 totaled an estimated 16.5 billion ton-miles, 2.0 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The 1981 week included the seventh week of a coal miners' strike.

Cumulative volume for the first 20 weeks of 1982 was an estimated 322.7 billion ton-miles, 8.7 percent below the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 15 totaled 382,025 cars, 1.6 percent below 1981 but 0.9 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 16.2 percent in the East due to the 1981 coal strike, but were down 5.4 percent in the South and 9.7 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1981, 18 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, grain loadings were up 3,550 cars, or 16.8 percent. Thirteen of the 21 groups increased from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 8, totaled 35,325 cars, up an estimated 4.9 percent from the corresponding week of 1981, and 65,575 trailers and/or containers, 8.7 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first nineteen weeks of the year was 659,174 cars, 8.6 percent higher than last year, and 1,175,877 trailers and/or containers, up 6.4 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/15/82:

	Loadings in Week ended May 15,1982		Change from Corresponding Week 1981			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,676	I	3,550	16.8	I	930	3.9
Other farm products	4,433	D	302	6.4	I	248	5.9
Metallic ores	21,192	D	14,466	40.6	I	2,110	11.1
Coal	119,236	I	56,849	91.1	I	1,141	1.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,164	D	3,821	27.3	I	188	1.9
Nonmetallic minerals	9,976	D	4,399	30.6	D	555	5.3
Grain mill products	11,744	D	2,596	18.1	I	75	0.6
Food and kindred products	13,762	D	2,236	14.0	I	260	1.9
Primary forest products	15,188	D	4,810	24.1	D	568	3.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,010	D	2,362	28.2	I	177	3.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	16,415	D	3,113	15.9	D	182	1.1
Chemicals and allied products	23,657	D	4,133	14.9	D	793	3.2
Petroleum products	4,675	D	677	12.6	I	3	0.1
Stone, clay and glass products	10,303	D	4,496	30.4	I	271	2.7
Coke	4,596	D	2,377	34.1	D	396	7.9
Metals and products	9,744	D	6,916	41.5	D	525	5.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,964	D	3,650	17.7	D	118	0.7
Waste and scrap materials	8,667	D	5,019	36.7	I	236	2.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,433	D	1,353	13.8	D	257	3.0
All other carloads	41,952	D	28	0.1	I	1,232	3.0
LCL traffic	238	I	2	0.8	I	22	10.2
Total Cars Loaded	382,025	D	6,353	1.6	I	3,499	0.9
Corresponding week of 1981	388,378						

	1982	1981	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (20 weeks)	7,479,008	8,310,033	D 10.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
19 Weeks cumulative	306.3	336.8	D 9.1
Week ended May 15	16.5	16.8	D 2.0
20 Weeks cumulative	322.7	353.6	D 8.7

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